Inventor: Agostino Tucciarone et al.

Application No.: 10/822,101

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AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-14. (CANCELLED).

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of ACL graft ligament fixation comprising the steps of:

forming a passing pin tunnel in a femur, said passing pin tunnel having a longitudinal axis and exiting a superior wall of the femur;

forming a femoral tunnel along said longitudinal axis, said femoral tunnel having a larger diameter than said passing pin tunnel and terminating in said femur;

forming a transverse tunnel intersecting the femoral tunnel, said transverse tunnel terminating within said femur;

locating a graft loop in the femoral tunnel in such a manner that an open face of the loop faces an intersection where the femoral tunnel intersects the transverse tunnel, and wherein said locating comprises pulling on sutures holding said graft loop to locate said graft loop, and said pulling on sutures comprises pulling on said sutures through said passing pin tunnel;

passing at least a part of a head section of a transverse suspension device through the graft loop via the transverse tunnel until said head contacts an opposite wall of the femoral tunnel.

- 16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 15, wherein after location of the graft loop in the femoral tunnel, a guide wire is advanced thereunder from the transverse tunnel.
- 17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 16, wherein the suspension device is passed along the guide wire after the guide wire is advanced under the graft loop.

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18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 15, wherein the head of the device is advanced as far as a distal head of a recess formed in the opposite wall of the femoral tunnel.

- 19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 18, comprising urging said graft against said opposite wall as said head is advanced into said recess.
- 20. (CANCELLED)
- 21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of ACL graft ligament fixation comprising the steps of:

providing a transverse suspension device comprising a proximal body section defining a longitudinal axis, a head section extending along said longitudinal axis and protruding distally from the body section, said head section having a smaller diameter than that of said body section, a nose section distal to and distinct from said head section and having a reduced diameter as compared to said head section, said nose section extending along said longitudinal axis, and an annular abutment surface distinct from said head section and disposed between said head section and said body section wherein said abutment surface is substantially at an angle to said longitudinal axis;

forming a femoral tunnel;

forming a transverse tunnel intersecting the femoral tunnel;

locating a graft loop in the femoral tunnel in such a manner that an open face of the loop faces an intersection where the femoral tunnel intersects the transverse tunnel;

passing at least a part of said <u>nose</u> [[head]] section of said transverse suspension device through the graft loop via the transverse tunnel until said [[head]] <u>nose</u> section contacts a recess formed in an opposite wall of the femoral tunnel wherein said abutment surface urges said graft against said opposite wall <u>and such that said ligament is supported by said head section</u>.

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22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 16, wherein said guidewire is advanced under observation with a viewing device.

- 23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 22 wherein said viewing device is an arthroscope.
- 24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 21 wherein said <u>nose</u> [[head]] section is frustoconical shaped.
- 25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 21 wherein said transverse suspension device is cannulated.
- 26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 21 wherein the recess is formed with a dilator tool.
- 27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 21 wherein said transverse tunnel is drilled to intersect and not cross said femoral tunnel.
- 28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 21 wherein said body section comprises external threads.
- 29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of ACL graft ligament fixation comprising the steps of:

providing a transverse suspension device comprising a threaded tubular body section defining a longitudinal axis, a frustoconical head section extending along said longitudinal axis and protruding distally from the body section, said head section having a smaller diameter than that of said body section, and an annular abutment surface disposed between said head section and said body section wherein said abutment surface is substantially at an angle to said longitudinal axis;

forming a femoral tunnel;

forming a transverse tunnel intersecting the femoral tunnel but not extending beyond said femoral tunnel such that said femoral tunnel comprises an opposite wall;

forming a recess in said opposite wall with a dilator tool;

locating a graft loop in the femoral tunnel in such a manner that an open face of the loop faces an intersection where the femoral tunnel intersects the transverse tunnel;

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passing at least a part of a head section of a transverse suspension device through the graft loop via the transverse tunnel until said head section is received in said recess and wherein said abutment surface urges said graft against said opposite wall, and wherein said passing is performed subsequent to said locating.

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- 30. (NEW) A method according to claim 21, wherein said angel is about 90 degrees.
- 31. (NEW) A method according to claim 21, wherein said head section has a substantially constant diameter.
- 32. (NEW) A method according to claim 15, wherein said transverse suspension device is configured as shown in Figure 3.